A reference designator unambiguously identifies a component in an electrical schematic or on a printed circuit board. The reference designator usually consists of one or two letters followed by a number, e.g. R13, C1002. The number is sometimes followed by a letter, indicating that components are grouped or matched with each other, e.g. R17A, R17B. IEEE 315 contains a list of Class Designation Letters to use for electrical and electronic assemblies. For example, the letter R is a reference prefix for the resistors of an assembly, C for capacitors, K for relays.

Designator	Component Type
A	Separable assembly or sub-assembly (e.g. printed circuit assembly)
AT	Attenuator or isolator
BR	ttenuator or isolator
C	Capacitor
CN	Capacitor network
D	Diode (including Zeners, thyristors and LEDs)
DL	Delay line
DS	Display
F	Fuse
FB	Ferrite bead
FD	Fiducial
FL	Filter
G	Generator or oscillator
GN	General network
H	Hardware
HY	Circulator or directional coupler
J	Jack (least-movable connector of a connector pair) | Jack connector (connector may have "male" pin contacts and/or "female" socket contacts)
JP	Link (Jumper)
K	Relay or contactor
L	Inductor or coil or ferrite bead
LS	Loudspeaker or buzzer
M	Motor
MK	Microphone

Designator	Component Type
MP	Mechanical part (including screws and fasteners)
P	Plug (most-movable connector of a connector pair) | Plug connector (connector may have "male" pin contacts and/or "female" socket contacts)
PS	Power supply
Q	Transistor (all types)
R	Resistor
RN	Resistor network
RT	Thermistor
RV	Varistor
S	Switch (all types, including push-buttons)
T	Transformer
TC	Thermocouple
TUN	Tuner
TP	Test point
U	Inseparable assembly (e.g., integrated circuit)
V	Vacuum tube
VR	Variable resistor (potentiometer or rheostat)
X	Socket connector for another item not P or J, paired with the letter symbol for that item (XV for vacuum tube socket, XF for fuse holder, XA for printed circuit assembly connector, XU for integrated circuit connector, XDS for light socket, etc.)
Y	Crystal or oscillator
Z	Zener diode